

*"Gladly Would They Teach
and
Gladly Would They Learn."*



**A Legacy Fundraiser Honoring the Lives of
Ovid and Carol Vickers**



Table Sponsors

Wheeler Drug Store

Bubba Hudspeth

Hinds Community College Foundation, Inc.

Terrell and Perry Winstead

Mississippi State University, Office of Public Affairs

David and Roberta Byars (Byars Furniture)

Family of Ovid & Carol Vickers

Welcome **Sid Salter**
Chief Communications Officer, Mississippi State University

Invocation **Pastor Marcus Mann**
*First Baptist Church, Carthage & 1994 Alumnus,
East Central Community College*

Lunch

Broadway Medley **Vicki Blaylock**
Retired Music Faculty Member, East Central Community College
&
Leesa Wilkinson
Former Music Faculty Member, East Central Community College

Special Media Presentation

**Remarks by Friends and Colleagues
of Carol Vickers** **Pat Cleveland**
Board of Trustees Member, East Central Community College
&
Marty Cooper
Former Head Men's Basketball Coach, East Central Community College

**Remarks by Friends & Colleagues
of Ovid Vickers** **Dr. Randall Lee**
*1982 Alumnus & Vice President for Student Services,
East Central Community College*
&
Bubby Johnston
*Former Vice President for Public Information,
East Central Community College*

Vickers Legacy Fund **Dr. Brent Gregory**
1996 Alumnus & President, East Central Community College

Family Response **Nona Vickers**

Closing Remarks **Sid Salter**

Ovid Vickers



For 40 years, from 1955-1995, Ovid Vickers' most rewarding professional achievement was expanding the minds of freshman and sophomore students as a beloved English instructor and department chair at East Central Community College in Decatur. Along with bringing to life for students such literature classics as "Beowulf," "Gawain and the Green Knight" and "The Canterbury Tales," Vickers also choreographed many college musicals, emceed numerous campus events, and greatly influenced the lives of thousands of college students.

Born in Gadsden, Alabama in 1930 and raised in Dodge County, Georgia, he moved to Decatur in 1953 at the young age of 23 after serving as a U.S. Army Infantry School instructor while stationed at Ft. Benning during the Korean Conflict. He spent the rest of his life in Decatur where he shared his love of "the folk" of the South, entertaining audiences at speaking engagements in local, state and regional venues, from small community civic gatherings to national conventions.

He was educated in the public schools of Dodge County, graduating from Chauncy High School in 1948. He then entered George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville (now part of Vanderbilt University), receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees there. He later returned to Peabody to earn an Education Specialist degree.

Vickers' short stories, essays and poems have appeared in numerous scholarly journals and mainstream media publications such as Southern Living, Mississippi Magazine, The Texas Review and The Southern Quarterly. Vickers' poetry is included in two volumes of the University Press of Mississippi's anthologies, "Mississippi Writers: Reflections of Childhood and Youth" and the companion volume, "An Anthology of Mississippi Writers." His poems illustrate descriptive elements of southern living, from his depiction of young boys coming of age in the outdoors and his father's remedy for noisy guinea hens to an expressive statement about the terrible costs of the Civil War.

His works were included 18 times in the Mississippi Folklore Register printed by the Mississippi Folklore Society, an organization which he co-founded and served for 25 years.

From 1982 to 2012, he was an award-winning newspaper columnist for the Neshoba Democrat, Union Appeal, Scott County Times, and the Times Journal-Spotlight in Eastman, Georgia, his hometown. These anecdote-filled columns, on subjects ranging from his struggle with fixing a flat tire to surviving the heat at the Neshoba County Fair, won multiple awards from the Mississippi Press Association including three "Best Column" honors for weekly newspaper writing.

In 2000, he was commissioned by 62nd Governor Ronnie Musgrove to write and read an original poem at the January inauguration. In 2003, he was recognized by the Mississippi Humanities Council with the Chairman's Award for Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Humanities, and in 2005 he was named one of Mississippi's Ageless Heroes by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi.

Prior to his 1995 retirement, Vickers twice served as president of the Mississippi Council of Teachers of English, and in 1990 was selected the organization's College English Teacher of the Year. He served as an officer in the Southeastern Conference on English in the Two-Year College and was honored by SCETC in 1990 for his dedication and service. In 2004, SCETC presented Vickers with the prestigious Doster Award for his contributions to the organization and for co-authoring its history. Also, the Ovid S. Vickers Award for Excellence in the Teaching of English was created as an annual honor of the Two-Year College English Association of Mississippi to recognize an outstanding English instructor teaching full time in one of state's community colleges.

A few months before his retirement, ECCC named its Fine Arts Center, built in 1969, in honor of Vickers for his many contributions to the humanities and the institution.

He continued writing well into the later years of his life, and in 2013 penned "The East Central I Knew: A History of East Central Community College," a book depicting life on the campus from its 1928 beginning. In 2016, a second book was released titled "Notes in the Margin: A Collection of Columns about East Central Community College."

Carol Vickers

A well-known quilter and author, Carol Vickers' professional talent and greatest career achievement were as a classroom English teacher in the Decatur public schools from 1966-1982 and as an instructor at East Central Community College from 1983 until her 1992 retirement. She had a true passion for developing the minds of not only young learners, but also adults. Toward the end of her career, she gave many older learners a brighter future through her Adult Basic Education and GED preparation courses and once said, "That's what I do; try to build their confidence and tell them 'you can do this.'"



A three-time Star Teacher at Decatur High School, she was very involved with her students outside the classroom as well, serving as a high school Beta Club and class sponsor, and as a coach for the national Boys' State Spelling Championship. She later was an ECCC yearbook advisor and tutor for the men's basketball team. In 1974, she was named a national Outstanding Young Educator and, in 1983, became a U.S. Department of Education Presidential Scholar Teacher.

Born in Hazlehurst, Vickers grew up in the Stallo community in north Neshoba County and graduated "across the line" from Winston County's Noxapater High School where she was named the "Sweetheart" of the Future Farmers of America organization. She then graduated from East Central Community College in 1958 where she met her husband of 59 years, Ovid Vickers, who was in his early years as an English instructor. She also received a bachelor's and master's degree in English from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Taught to quilt by her mother at a young age, she developed and maintained a passionate interest in the history of quilts and was a member of the Mississippi Quilt Association. In 1994, she was appointed chair of MQA's Mississippi Heritage Quilt Project which documented more than 1,600 quilts made prior to 1945 with the research culminating in the book "Mississippi Quilts." The project also became the backdrop for the book "Threading The Generations" which she co-authored.

Prior to this in 1984, Vickers and her mother were invited by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to represent the state's quilters in the Mississippi Pavilion at the New Orleans World's Fair. With traditional quilting frames, they exhibited their skills and discussed the pastime with visitors from around the world. She attended MQA's organizational meeting in 1991 and traveled the state for this group and the Mississippi Humanities Council sharing her knowledge of quilting and its history. She even penned a children's book in 1998 called "The Llama's Pajamas" about a fictional pack animal and its attachment to a quilt.

Other activities she enjoyed were reading, antiquing and collecting, and she donated her extensive compilation of Little Golden Books to the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection at USM. Because of her curiosity with historic places, she traveled many times overseas and was fascinated by the extraordinary churches. In Decatur, she was an active member in Decatur United Methodist Church throughout her adult life, serving on several committees and leading the women's group and a Sunday School class.

An avid sports fan, Vickers especially took pleasure in cheering for the underdog team in college athletics and was an avid fan of the Atlanta Braves baseball team. Every year, she looked forward to spending time with family and friends at the Obe's Acres cabin at the Neshoba County Fair.

Video Participants

Craig Gill

Director, University Press of Mississippi

Peggy Peterson

*Former President, Mississippi Association of Educators &
Retired Teacher, Decatur Public Schools*

Marcus Mann

*1994 ECCC Alumnus & Former Basketball Standout;
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Carthage*

Trent Kelly

1986 ECCC Alumnus & U.S. Representative, 1st District of Mississippi

Bubba Hudspeth

*1959 ECCC Alumnus & Former Board Member;
Member, Mississippi Community College Board*

Sid Salter

Chief Communications Officer, Mississippi State University

Dr. Phil Sutphin

Former ECCC President

Dr. Clyde Muse

1949 ECCC Alumnus & Retired President, Hinds Community College

Mike Hurst

*1995 ECCC Alumnus; Partner, Phelps Dunbar LLC;
Former U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Mississippi*